ISI agents detained in Assam

949. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of ISI agents detained in Assam and afterward released from the Jail;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of secret official documents were also supplied to one of those alleged ISI agents;

(c) whether Government will constitute immediate high level enquiry on such matters to protect the internal security and sovereignty of the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees/workers lost jobs

950. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as many as 20 lakh employees/workers have lost their livelihood/lost their jobs in the last four-five months and another 10 lakh may lose jobs in the next few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether International Labour Organization (ILO) has also warned increase in unemployment rates in the developing countries;

(d) if so, whether Government has taken any remedial measures in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) With a view to assess impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors presumed to be adversely affected by the slowdown during the quarter October-December, 2008, Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out a survey in important sectors, *viz.* Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about half a million workers have lost their Jobs during October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

Department of Commerce, Government of India have been undertaking sample surveys relating to reduction in exports and resultant job losses in export-related Industries. In the updated sample survey on job losses for export-related industries for August, 2008 to

16 January, 2009, out of 402 units surveyed, the loss in export orders is around Rs. 6272 crores and loss of 1,09,513 jobs.

(c) Yes, Sir. The ILO report on Global Employment Trends, 2009 has indicated that in 2008, world's unemployment rate has increased to 6.0 percent from 5.7 percent in 2007.

(d) and (e) Government is concerned about the impact of global financial crisis on the Indian economy and several measures financial and fiscal have been initiated to instil confidence in the economy, spur growth and overcome crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and two economic packages by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts.

In order to provide a social safety net, with effect from 01.04.2005, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana". Under the scheme, employees who lose their employment due to retrenchment, closure of factories/ establishments or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury, after being insured for five or more years, are entitled to Unemployment Allowance in cash equal to 50% of their wage upto 1 year during his/her entire service. In addition, he and his family members are also entitled to medical care.

Malpractices in the working of contract system

951. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the present contract system, the poor labour even highly educated ones are not paid in real term even bare wages to maintain themselves while the major share of their wages go to the pockets of middlemen/contractors thus avoiding the payment of pensionary liabilities by the exchequer in future;

(b) whether such a system do not resemble to corrupt practices and blood sucking of labour class;

(c) whether Government have ever carried out any survey in this regard, if so with what results; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Contractors are paid in terms of the contract. If the employment in which the contract labour are employed is a scheduled employment, the minimum rates or wages fixed and revised by the Appropriate Government are payable to the Contract Labourers. The minimum wages payable to such contract labour are not inclusive of any commission payable to the contractors. The wages payable to the contract labour engaged other than in scheduled employments are governed by the terms of contract (express or implied) arrived at between the contractor and his workers. Wages do not include contractor's share/commission. Cases of unauthorized deductions from wages are also dealt under the